

Fair Political Practices Commission
Memorandum

To: Chairman Johnson, Commissioners Hodson, Huguenin, Leidigh, and Remy
From: Whitney Barazoto, Government Affairs Director
Subject: Chaptered Bills Report
Date: October 30, 2007

Below is a list of bills relevant to the Commission and approved by the Legislature, signed by the Governor, and chaptered into law by the Secretary of State during this first year of the 2007-08 Legislative Session. The provisions of these chaptered bills will take effect on January 1, 2008.

AB 299 (Tran)
Chapter 130, Statutes of 2007
Maintenance of the Codes

This bill makes technical changes to multiple code sections at the recommendation of Legislative Counsel. The sections of the Political Reform Act that are amended by this bill include Government code sections 85316 and 89513. The changes are minor and technical.

AB 404 (Ruskin)
Chapter 495, Statutes of 2007
Advertisement Disclosure

This bill amends the Political Reform Act by requiring that an advertisement paid for by an independent expenditure expressly state that the ad was not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.

AB 473 (Adams)
Chapter 54, Statutes of 2007
Filing Campaign Statements

This Commission-sponsored bill amends the Political Reform Act by eliminating the requirement to file copies of campaign statements with a committee's county of domicile and reduces the requirement to file two copies of reports with local filing officers to one copy.

AB 745 (Silva)
Chapter 109, Statutes of 2007
Local Agency Government Formation

This bill amends the Government Code to require reporting of contributions and expenditures made for political activities in connection with petitions to propose a change of organization or reorganization before the proposal has been submitted to the local agency formation commission. The bill requires contributions and expenditures to be reported to the local agency formation commission. (This bill does not amend the Political Reform Act.)

AB 1430 (Garrick)

Chapter 708, Statutes of 2007

Member Communications

This bill amends the Political Reform Act by identifying specific types of restrictions imposed by local jurisdictions that would conflict with the member communications provisions in the Political Reform Act. The identified restrictions are prohibited, unless a state statute or a regulation adopted by the Commission expressly states otherwise.

AB 1441 (Garrick)

Chapter 283, Statutes of 2007

Legal Defense Funds

This bill amends the Political Reform Act by extending to local candidates the ability to open legal defense accounts that is currently allowed for elective state office candidates. The bill provides that contributions to local candidate legal defense accounts may be subject to limits imposed by local ordinance, but the candidate must follow the reporting requirements that currently exist for state candidates.

AB 1678 (De La Torre)

Chapter 68, Statutes of 2007

Conflicts of Interest in Government Contracting

This bill provides that the statute of limitations for violations of Government Code section 1092 (relating to conflicts of interest in government contracting) is four years after the plaintiff has discovered or should have discovered the violation. (This bill does not amend the Political Reform Act.)

SB 512 (Senate Elections Committee)

Chapter 348, Statutes of 2007

Omnibus Committee Bill

This Commission-sponsored bill amends the Political Reform Act in the following ways: 1) it amends the definition of “investment” to exclude government defined-benefit pension plans; 2) it requires candidates seeking election to designated positions to file a Statement of Economic Interest since the incumbent is already required to file one; and 3) it makes other minor, technical amendments.

SB 884 (Lowenthal)

Chapter 663, Statutes of 2007

California Coastal Commission: Gifts

This bill amends the Public Resources Code to prohibit a California Coastal Commission member or staff from accepting a gift of more than \$10 per month from an applicant who seeks approval of a coastal development permit. (This bill does not amend the Political Reform Act.)